

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in view of the present Amendment and the following Remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 and 5-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 5-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,734,837 to Flores et al. ("Flores") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,606,740 to Lynn et al. ("Lynn"). Claims 10 and 13 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Flores and Lynn further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,078,982 to Du et al. ("Du"). Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. After careful review of the claims as amended, it is believed that the claims are in allowable form and therefore allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended for clarification. Independent claims 1 and 14 are limited to defining a new event structure and a workflow for a new event source without modifying the preconfigured workflow server engine, and claims 1 and 20 are limited, the workflow configured to return a result to the event source via a callback to enable correction of data structures in the event of workflow failure.

The claims are directed to new event sources added to a system without changing the workflow engine. In contrast, Flores is directed to establishing a system for workflow applications. Flores thus concerns initial creation of workflow applications and does not disclose defining a new event structure or creating a new workflow for the new event source without modifying the preconfigured workflow engine, or creating a conditional event rule that returns a result to the event source via a callback. The Office Action cites Fig. 2a, items 13 and 15, Fig. 9, item 43, Col. 3, lines 62 – Col. 4, line 9, and Col. 8, lines 7-30 as disclosing the workflow configured to return a result to the event source via a callback to enable correction of data structure in response to a failure as claimed. However, none of the cited figures or passages discloses anything related to the claimed feature. Fig. 2a merely shows a business process map showing one of two conditional workflows 13, 15 initiated by conditional link 17; Fig. 3 merely illustrates that item 43 is an event handler; Col. 3-4 merely describes the four phases of Flores type workflow; and Col. 8, lines 7-30 describes business process maps. There is no mention of the workflow returning a result to the event source, use of callback, or correction of data structures in response to a failure.

The Office Action also asserts that Flores discloses defining a new event structure at Col. 4, lines 48-64, and in Fig. 6, ref. 51. However, Col. 4, lines 48-64 merely describe a workflow server

but does not describe adding a new event source to a preconfigured workflow engine database or defining a new event structure for the new source. The Office Action further asserts that Flores discloses the claimed creating an executable function at Col. 5, lines 11-14, and Col. 7, lines 63-Col. 8, line 6. However, Col. 5 describes an agent manager which executes workflows but does not describe creating a new data structure for the new event or matching the events with workflows, as claimed. Col. 7, lines 63 to Col. 8, line 6, describes a GUI where the user may delete a workflow, and a scripting language for generation of workflows but does not describe creating new data structures for new event sources or matching the events to workflow as claimed.

The Office action concedes that Flores does not disclose the creating the workflow without modifying the workflow server engine but asserts that Lynn does at Col. 11, lines 55-57 and at Col. 28, lines 30-37. Lynn describes a workflow processing framework that provides common objects. However, Col. 11, lines 55-57 merely describe a basic interface control for Index, Document Retrieval, and Case Retrieval interfaces which can be modified without changing the rest of the application. This is not a disclosure of the claimed adding a new event source structure and workflow without changing the workflow server engine. There is no discussion of a workflow engine in this passage or discussion of a new event structure, merely discussion of changing an application interface without changing the rest of the same application. The claim calls for defining new event structures and creating associated workflows without modifying the preconfigured workflow server engine. Col. 28, lines 30-37 merely concerns claiming that certain software objects supporting business function are not changed when work steps are defined by the user. There is no mention of new event sources, a new event structure, a plurality of event parameters associated with the new structure, or of the workflow engine not being changed when the new event source and event structure are added. The work steps and document retrieval application mentioned in Lynn are not new event structures and do not teach avoiding changing a preconfigured workflow engine as claimed. Thus, these features are not taught or suggested by Flores or Lynn. Thus, independent claims 1, 14, and 20 are believed to be distinguishable over the references as are dependent claims 2-13, 15-19, and 21-25.

Regarding claim 3, the Office Action asserts that Flores at Col. 12, lines 65-67 and Col. 15, lines 25-30 describes the claimed associating the workflow with the event id. However, the Col. 12 passage merely mentions the word "identities" which in Col. 13, lines 6-7 is described as specific personal information, not an event id; and the Col. 15 passage states an identifier variable used in a workflow short name is a single word but does not mention an event id or its claimed use.

Regarding claims 6 and 14, the Office Action cites Flores at Col. 5, lines 59-62 as disclosing a dynamical link library as the executable function. However, Flores at Col. 5 merely describes API definitions from a library used to generate workflow definition structures in the definition database, not a DLL which builds an event message and sends events to the workflow engine, as claimed. Thus, these features are also not disclosed and claims 3, 6, and 14 are further distinguishable over the cited references.

Further, claim 10 calls for preventing changes to the workflow databases when the workflow is in use, and claim 13 requires maintaining a sorted list of rule sets, and searching the sorted list in order upon receiving a workflow event. These features are also not disclosed by Flores or Lynn, however, the Office Action asserts that these features are disclosed by Du at Col. 2, lines 32-49; and Col. 9, lines 44 to Col. 10, line 4. However, Du, at Cols. 2, and 9-10 merely describes a system for allowing consistent workflow process which locks data specified for future access by the workflow process from being accessed before the workflow process is commenced. This does not teach locking data from being changed during use by the workflow engines. Regarding claim 13, Du at Cols. 6-7 merely describes a workflow engine, HP Open PM, which steps through a workflow, the queue manager 67 of Fig. 4 is not described and maintenance of a sorted list of currently loaded event to workflow rules sets, and a search of such a list is not described. Thus, claims 10 and 13 are believed to be further distinguishable over the cited references.

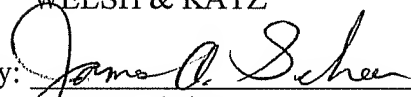
For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the extension of time fee, RCE fee, petition fee, extra claim fee, issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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